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Bowling Green State University

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Tuesday

February 17, 2009
Volume 103, Issue 103
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CAMPUS

Enjoy the Taste of February

At 6 p.m. in the Union, there is free dinner and entertainment honoring Black History Month | **Page 3**

Costly rescue could have been avoided

Columnist Marisha Pietrowski writes that ice fishermen rescued from frozen lake were careless and should be financially accountable for the \$20,000 rescue | **Page 4**

Expensive stimulus bill seems rushed

Columnist Phil Schurrer writes that the stimulus package could be another example of a shortsighted Congress quick to throw money at their problems | **Page 4**

Congratulations bill, you're a law

Obama will sign the stimulus bill today after several weeks of Congress debating and rewriting the \$787 billion package | **Page 5**

Track team takes third

At the All-Ohio Championships, Falcons took third with a balanced effort from the whole team including TaKarra Dunning's shot-put, which may be good enough for nationals | **Page 6**

SPORTS



What would you do to rock Bret Michaels' world?



LORI PETRICK
Senior, International Business

"Run my fingers through his hair extensions." | **Page 4**

PEOPLE ON THE STREET

Starbucked

Outlook not so perky for Starbucks nationally

By Lin Chafetz
Reporter

The failing economy has been tough on everyone, including the Starbucks powerhouse.

On Jan. 29 Starbucks announced the closing of approximately 200 stores nationally, but the University may see the opening of one in the Jerome Library.

Tom Atwood, the dean of the University Libraries, said they are still assessing the decision for a coffee shop in the library. The only thing decided is where a coffee shop would go, which is in the reserve room across from the circulation desk. After doing a survey, Atwood said it was clear a coffee shop was wanted in the library.

"People want a coffee shop in the library, and we would love to have one here. Most academic libraries already do," Atwood said. "I'm not sure Starbucks is the answer though."

The announcement that 200 stores

See **STARBUCKS** | **Page 2**



COFFEE BREAK: Jared Tubarty in the Starbucks on Wooster working on his lap top.



COFFEE, COFFEE, COFFEE: One of the three Starbucks in Bowling Green, the Starbucks on East Wooster Street.

A DIP IN SALES

First Quarter Fiscal 2009 Results as reported by Starbucks:

- Net revenues for the first quarter of fiscal 2008: \$2.8 billion
- Net revenues for the first quarter of fiscal 2009: \$2.6 billion, a decrease in 6 percent
- Number of stores announced to close in 2009: 300 internationally, 200 in the U.S.
- Number of the positions that could be lost: 6,000
- Number of stores planned to open in the U.S.: 140 down from 200
- Number of stores planned to open internationally: 170 down from 270



Tough economic times forces some bars to reduce staffing

By Craig Vanderkam
Web Editor

Though several bars in Bowling Green have maintained steady business through the tough economic and winter climate, others have not been as fortunate, leading to cut backs in staffing and hours.

In a Jan. 28 article in The BG News, Junction Bar & Grill was reported reducing staffing and cutting back hours until business picks up again.

Similar adjustments are being made at other bars.

An employee at SkyBar, who spoke on the condition of anonymity, expects business to increase with nicer weather but admitted current business has decreased.

"Business has significantly slowed down," the employee said. "We are scheduling less people on each night and have been sending people home if we are not busy."

Ryan Johnson, a manager at Jed's Barbeque & Brew, said the restaurant has felt only a slight impact due in part to the economy.

"I only started here last spring, but business is a little slower than it used to be in these tough economic times," Johnson said.

"We are scheduling less people on each night and have been sending people home ..."

Anonymous SkyBar employee

"Numbers are down a little bit, but not enough to make a huge impact."

Jaclyn Pompeani, a junior at the University, said a bar's closure would have only a minor impact given the proximity of many others.

"It may make it difficult when it comes to variety and wanting to go to several bars a night," Pompeani said. "But there are so many to choose from anyway that it might not be a huge deal."

Amanda Fowler, a junior at the University, works at One 49 North and said the bar has seemingly not been affected by economic troubles.

"We are packed almost every weekend, business has been really good," Fowler said. "Even with the colder weather, people were still coming in."

See **BARS** | **Page 2**



SINGING FOR THE CROWD: Graduate student Andrew Schultz sings solo during a performance with the HeeBeeBGs at the Union in Fall 2007.

A capella group performs for Presidents Day visitors

By Ira Sairs
Reporter

The HeeBeeBGs, the University's men's capella group, welcomed Presidents Day visitors to the sound of music yesterday in the Union.

The group performed songs from Cake, Eve 6 and the school spirit song while families and possible students shuffled by countless booths representing student organizations.

But the HeeBeeBGs are not just a usual men's choir group, they also incorporate trumpet sounds, beat-

boxing and synchronized dance moves.

"We try to go beyond just singing songs, we try to make it a performance," said Eric Watts, president of the HeeBeeBGs and vocal music education major.

The group, a select chamber ensemble and an extension of the men's chorus, comprised of 15 members, entertained in the Union yesterday as part of the Presidents Day open house, a tradition started

See **CAPELLA** | **Page 2**



ENOCH WU | THE BG NEWS

Renovation on Ice Arena delayed

By Sean Shapiro
Reporter

A \$4 million renovation to the University's Ice Arena has officially been put on hold, according to Arena Director Buddy Powers.

Work had originally been planned to begin this spring, however, has been put off because of the struggling economy.

"It's not a good time to borrow money, we would need a loan to proceed with the renovations, basically the project is on hold till the budget situation shakes down," said University spokesman David Kielmeier.

According to Director of Recreational Sports Steve Kampf, the arena has been put on hold due to the state of the University.

"It wasn't my decision, but in the state of the University we're making cuts right now," Kampf said.

Kampf then said there is not an existing plan for the arena, however he expects the rink to be re-evaluated this spring.

Despite the set back, Powers is confident his staff will continue to provide quality service to customers.

"My guys are going to keep working, and they're going to work to make sure everything here works," Powers said.

The \$4 million would have been used to replace the necessary equipment to make ice, fix the lighting and air handling and to also fix several leaks in the roof and gutters.

Another issue with the current arena is the few locker rooms available. Of the four locker rooms with showers, only two are regularly available. The University's hockey team uses one on any given weekend while the other main locker room is reserved

See **ARENA** | **Page 2**

USG votes to support Cartwright

By Kyle Reynolds
Senior Reporter

President Carol Cartwright has received student support from USG, but student support for the Stroh Center will wait until next week's meeting.

USG unanimously voted to show their support for the recently installed president of the University at their meeting last night.

Reasons in the resolution to support Cartwright included her experience as president at Kent State University, their confidence in her as president and her ability to meet the expectations set for Ohio universities by Chancellor Eric Fingerhut.

Last night also marked the first reading of a resolution to show student support for the Stroh Center and a \$50 student fee that would go towards paying off the mortgage for the building once the facility is completed.

The completion of the facility is expected around 2011 or 2012.

An additional \$10 student fee going towards improved parking on campus is included in the

See **USG** | **Page 2**

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BLOTTER FRIDAY, FEB. 13

12:01 A.M.

Frank Durden III, 21, of Rossford, Ohio, was arrested for assault after punching an Uptown/Downtown employee twice in the face. Brandon Gobbell, 22, of Rossford, was cited for disorderly conduct while intoxicated after attempting to punch Uptown/Downtown staff after he was escorted from the bar.

2:41 A.M.

Brent Graham, 20, of Oregon, Ohio, was cited for underage drinking.

SUNDAY, FEB. 15

10:36 A.M.

Aldin Derosier IV, 23, of Bowling Green, was arrested for criminal trespassing after he was found repeatedly sleeping in the restroom of The Wash House.

11:50 A.M.

Complainant reported his credit card was used to make unauthorized transactions after it was misplaced by staff at One 49 North.

4:44 P.M.

Complainant reported an unknown subject scratched several panels on the passenger side of his vehicle, causing approximately \$500 in damages.

CITY BRIEF

Man arrested for assaulting police officers

A 24-year-old Bowling Green man was arrested Saturday night for domestic violence, resisting arrest, assaulting two police officers, attempting to assault an officer and harassment with a bodily substance.

Bowling Green Police were called to an apartment on Spruce Drive at 11:12 p.m. Saturday after a complaint of domestic violence between Kristopher Stevens and his wife was filed.

When officers Matt Robinson and Nate Schiffel arrived at the scene, they found Stevens lying on the floor of his apartment crying, according to police reports.

Robinson asked Stevens for identification, which his wife went to get. As she was reaching for Stevens' wallet, police reported he kicked her in the chest.

The officers then attempted to handcuff Stevens, aided by assisting officers Jason Broshious, Scott Frank and Andy Mulinix.

During the struggle, police said Stevens attempted to grab a pair of scissors lying on the floor, but they were taken away by Schiffel.

Stevens also kicked at officers multiple times and rubbed his face on the carpet, causing an earring to be torn from his ear and blood to run into his mouth, which he spit at officers, according to police reports.

Police then carried Stevens out the door. As they went out the doorway, police said Stevens made multiple attempts to bite Frank's right thigh.

Stevens was taken to the Wood County Justice Center by prisoner van and is being held with no bond.

ARENA

From Page 1

for visiting hockey teams.

"We're selling the ice to the customer, it's hand in hand, if you rent the ice for a hockey game, you're going to use a locker room," said Powers. "And right now our facilities aren't adequate."

The ice arena staff have tried to combat this issue by making them shift locker rooms. Powers describes those rooms as "four walls and a hallway."

The renovation would replace the current studio ice with more locker rooms and turn the curling rink into a multi-purpose facility, Powers said. The studio ice, which is a sand base surface, would be expensive to replace, Powers said.

Finished in 1967, the University has only had one major renovation done in the ice arena's 42-year-old history. In 1989 the University added new seats at the north end of the arena and re-worked the lighting. An addition was added to the northeast end of the arena four years ago, however that addition was paid for by donors.



ENOCH WU | THE BG NEWS

UP ABOVE: Improvements to the hockey arena's lighting and air conditioning systems are among the items that are slated to be worked on.

STARBUCKS

From Page 1

would be closing came almost exactly six months after the announcement of approximately 600 stores closing. In July 2008 the stores which closed included nine in Ohio, including one in Maumee. The list of stores which will be closed has not yet been finalized, and may not be announced until the end of the fiscal year, according to a Starbucks representative.

"We would like to inform those stores which may be closing before completing a complete list," the representative said. "Those which are closing will be based upon productivity, need in the area and the impact of the closing in this current economic time."

There are three Starbucks stores in Bowling Green; one in the Union, one inside Kroger on North Main Street and one on East Wooster Street next to Chipotle. All three locations declined to comment on possible closures.

The exact number of Starbucks employees who may lose their jobs is unknown, however it could be as many as 6,000 jobs in the 2009 fiscal year, according to a Starbucks press release. Current team members will be offered to transfer to a different location, also according to the release.

"We would like to keep those dedicated employees on the team," the representative said.

Kayla Molczan, a frequent Starbucks customer at the University, is surprised about the number of stores which are

"I knew the economy was bad, but I didn't think it would affect ... Starbucks."

Kayla Molczan | Student

closing.

"I knew the economy was bad, but I didn't think it would affect something like Starbucks," she said. "Everybody drinks coffee."

Regardless of whether a Starbucks will be opening in the library, librarian John Forsyth thinks coffee and books are a fine match.

"Everyone is in favor for it. People like to drink coffee when they're in the library and studying," he said. "It's a fine idea to help out the students and ourselves."

For this quarter in the fiscal year, Starbucks has seen a loss of six percent in net revenues going from \$2.8 billion to \$2.6 billion from last year to this year. Starbucks is planning on cutting over \$500 million by closing their stores, cutting costs and by opening 170 new stores internationally, according to the Starbucks Web site.

Starbucks also announced on Feb. 12 their plan to incorporate instant coffee, a recent breakthrough product that delivers Starbucks coffee in an instant form. Starbucks plans to host exclusive events next week in New York and other cities to introduce this new addition to the Starbucks menu, according to a Starbucks press release.

Visit us online at
www.bgnews.com

BARS

From Page 1

Fowler credits the bar's success primarily to its atmosphere and drink specials.

"[One 49 North] has a different atmosphere than most bars in BG," she said, adding that there are always drink specials.

Ashley Perry, a senior at the University, is a bartender at Ziggy's and thinks business has actually picked up this semester compared to last.

The bartenders at Ziggy's utilize technology as a promotional tool, and the bar runs specials to get people in the door, Perry said.

"All of us bartenders promote the bar and encourage our friends to come in," she said. "We use Facebook and MySpace to promote special nights as well as sending out mass text messages."

Beckett's, in an attempt to increase revenue, now opens at 11 a.m. and started serving lunch as of a month and a half ago.

As for its night-life, Geoff Schwab, who works there, said business has been pretty good.

"We are a tavern, not a club," Schwab said. "When you come in here it is 'homey,' you walk in here and feel comfortable, it is a laid-back atmosphere."

A CAPELLA

From Page 1

last year.

"We're all just a big family almost," said Shane Coe, campus activity coordinator for the group and a Music and Pop Culture major.

The HeeBeeBGs have performed at the dedication of the new Sebo Athletic Center, at former University President Ribeau's birthday party, sporting events around campus and sang the National Anthem and the Alma Mater at the installation of President Cartwright.

At this year's homecoming, the HeeBeeBGs won the award for most spirited student organization. Because the group is so small, they have expanded what they can do and their involvement on campus, Watts said.

The HeeBeeBGs were created from the former men's chorus group Sine Nomine in 2007.

"Two years ago Andrew Shultz and Matt Young transformed the group from classical and turned it into a contemporary ensemble," Watts said.

Members of the group get to pick what songs are performed and sometimes even arrange them, said Kyle Spicer, secretary of the HeeBeeBGs.

"We love taking suggestions, too," Coe said.

The group just returned

"We're in our second year of being an official organization, so we're still learning what we can and can't do."

Eric Watts | HeeBeeBGs President

from The International Championship for Collegiate A Cappella last Saturday in Ann Arbor, Mich.

"It went very well," Watts said. "We were the first group from Bowling Green to participate and represent the University to the best of our ability."

"We got the only standing ovation," Coe said.

With their founder Andrew Shultz graduating, the HeeBeeBGs are going through transitions.

"We're in our second year of being an official organization, so we're still learning what we can and can't do," Watts said.

The HeeBeeBGs will be performing at the spring concert on March 29, in Bryan Recital Hall in the Moore Musical Arts Center. The group will also be touring this spring at various schools and churches.

"One of our big goals is to be a recruitment tool for BG," Watts said. "To bring in other groups to see what we do."

AND TO YOUR RIGHT, YOU'LL SEE...



ALAINA BUZAS | THE BG NEWS

CAMPUS SAFETY: Sophomore Danielle Dodd stops her Presidents Day tour group near East Hall yesterday afternoon to explain features of campus safety, like the blue light system. Dodd has been leading tour groups around campus for a year.

USG

From Page 1

resolution.

The importance of senators talking to their constituencies before voting was stressed by many members of USG, including off-campus senator Molly Albertson.

"I think it is the job of Undergraduate Student Government to go out there and talk to your constituencies," Albertson said. "How can we vote for [the students] if you don't know what they are thinking," Albertson said.

Rob Emmelhainz, organization liaison committee chair, personally supports the resolution, but wants the senators to gauge campus support.

"If we are speaking for the student body we need to talk to the students," Emmelhainz said.

Sean Lutzman, secretary, said he would like to see next week's meeting publicized so students may attend and express their opinion on the resolution.

Starmisha Conyers-Page, minority affairs senator, questioned the Stroh Center's ability to increase enrollment and retention among students as the resolution suggested.

Nicole Frattianne, chief of staff, said she wants the senators to realize this decision is for the University's future and not for all the students at the meeting.

"Anderson Arena is deteriorating anyway and they need a new facility," Frattianne said. "And regardless of what goes on in this meeting it will probably get built."

Also, USG President John Waynick announced he will not run for re-election next year, but has already started his campaign for Bowling Green City Council representing ward one.

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GET A LIFE

CALENDAR OF EVENTS
Some events taken from events.bgsu.edu8 a.m. - 10:30 p.m.
Dinner Theater Ticket Sales
BTSU Information Desk8 a.m. - 11 p.m.
Muslim Student Association Prayer Room
204 Olscamp9 a.m. - 5 p.m.
Graphic Design Exhibition by Deborah Thoreson
The Little Gallery5:30 - 6:30 p.m.
BG24 Broadcast
BTSU Falcon's Nest6 - 8 p.m.
Taste of February
202A Union6:30 - 8 p.m.
Native American Unity Council Weekly Meeting
110 Business Admin. Bldg.7 - 8:30 p.m.
Black Queer Warriors III: Ruth Ellis
107 Hanna Hall7:30 - 9:30 p.m.
Dining Etiquette Dinner
101A Olscamp7:30 p.m.
Tuesdays at the Gish: "A Boy and His Dog"
Gish Film Theater8 p.m.
Bad Astronomy
112 Physical Sciences Lab Bldg.8 p.m.
Horn Club & Tuba/Euphonium Ensemble
Bryan Recital Hall, Moore Musical Arts Center8 - 10 p.m.
Pub Unplugged: Scott Loehrke
Black Swamp Pub

CORRECTION POLICY

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LATTA VISITS UNIVERSITY



ALAINA BUZAS | THE BG NEWS

OHIO CONGRESSMAN: Representative Bob Latta speaks during a press conference in Dennis Bova's news writing class yesterday.

Musical theater group performs for community

By Theresa Scott
Reporter

MuTS, a new organization for students interested in musical theater, is bringing music to University students and the local community.

President Ali Schmidt said she had the idea to start a group for musical theater a few years ago but was just able to get it off the ground this year. So far she said she is pleased with the results.

"MuTS is turning out to be a way bigger success than I expected," Schmidt said.

The mission of MuTS is to give musical theater students and students who are just interested in performing the opportunity to develop their own acts outside of a university setting. Since the organization's inception in the fall, students have staged cabarets every month and have traveled to neighboring cities to put on shows for nursing home residents and performed a Veterans Day show. Members also organize field trips to see Broadway shows that are in the area.

Schmidt said the organization brings students together who do not necessarily get to work with each other in campus productions.

"MuTS keeps people in the loop, and we are able to provide each other with feedback," Schmidt said. "The community that we are building is awesome."

David Sollish is an advisor for MuTS, and he agreed students could benefit from the organization in ways they may not always be able to benefit from doing regular department productions.

"I think that the group is important because it gives our students who are interested in musical theater a place to discuss the art form," Sollish said. "Also, and perhaps most importantly, the group gives to the community by singing at nursing homes, entertaining veterans or providing entertainment for their fellow students."

Sollish said he is very impressed with how the organization has taken off this year. He is especially impressed with the initiative the students have taken upon themselves to make the organization better.

"I will be leaving BGSU in May and hope that when I do leave, MuTS will be as strong as ever," Sollish said. "[Schmidt's] passion is what propels the group. I think we can do much good in the community and on campus, as well as further the training of our students beyond the classroom."

Alex Bean, president of Theta Alpha Phi - a theater honors fraternity - said he has really enjoyed attending the MuTS cabarets this past year.

"Considering the little amount of time they have to practice, the results are just amazing," Bean said. "It is really cool to see the creative juices flowing in the space when you go to a cabaret."

MuTS has a cabaret every month, and on March 2 they will hold their first stage "kiss a thon" fund raiser in collaboration with Theta Alpha Phi, where members of the University community can bet on whom the cast should kiss on stage at the Wooster Center. Bean said he is really excited to see both organizations grow with each other.

"Even though MuTS is a new organization it has no intentions of slowing down," Schmidt said.

"I am really excited to keep this organization going," Schmidt said. "So far it has been an amazing experience."

Taste of February honors Black History Month

By Amanda Gilles
Reporter

Any student looking for a "tasteful" experience should attend the Taste of February being held tonight from 6 to 8 in the Union.

The event is to commemorate the history and context of February's celebration of Black History Month.

Presented by the Social Justice Task Force, this free event includes dinner and a night of entertainment with a wide variety of performers all celebrating Black History Month.

The event will honor Black History Month by highlighting past and present figures within black history, said Shai Collier, the residence hall director for Rogers Hall.

"It will celebrate their achievements through arts, music and dance in efforts to provide an understanding of just how far African Americans have come and where they are headed," Collier said.

Melinda Pressnell, a residential advisor for Kreischer Ashley is encouraging her residents to attend because she feels it is a great program.

"It has been a lot of fun in the past, and they always bring in some really good performers to entertain the people who attend," Pressnell said.

Performances will include entertainment from the gospel choir, the band Creative Minds and a number from the dance duo Prima. Other performances include the Black National Anthem being sung by Jakise Oree and a violin performance by Denielle Buenger.

"She is well known throughout the College of Music," said

"It will celebrate their achievements through arts, music and dance in efforts to provide understanding of just how far African Americans have come ..."

Shai Collier | Rogers Hall director

Alexandria Clark, the resident advisor for Kohl Hall and member of the Social Justice Task Force. "And it will be really elegant to have her playing during dinner."

Students will also get to see a mini fashion show displaying clothes designed by Bowling Green's own fashion designer Travis Moody. He will be displaying his male line M.L.N.E., which is an acronym for Minorities In Need of Exposure, along with his all female line, M.L.N.E.2.

Moody is excited to be involved in the event because he wants to be an inspiration to others in the community.

"I want to make a difference with my clothing designs," Moody said. "I want to show everyone you can take your life and do something big."

In addition to a wide variety of entertainment and a spark of fashion, there is also food. The event's meal will consist of a menu of what Clark calls "soul food."

Catered by University Dining Services, students will get to enjoy salad, corn bread, country fried chicken, along with macaroni and cheese and fruit punch. Dessert will consist of an array of cookies and brownies.

But the event's name does not refer to February's typical stereotype of chocolate treats or the dinner menu. Instead the event received its name for the cultural experience that it provides to stu-

dents on campus.

"The event's name refers to the spices and ingredients that come together to make it tasteful," Clark said. "It's the taste of pretty much everything coming together all in one night to sum up Black History Month."

Limited seating is available, so interested students are asked to reserve their seats by registering online at: <http://reslife.bgsu.edu/forms/taste-feb.php> and for more information to contact Clark at alexahc@bgsu.edu. All students who register will be sent a confirmation e-mail and should bring this e-mail upon checking into the event. Doors to the ballroom on the side of Starbucks will open at 5:30 and the event will begin with dinner being served promptly at 6.

However, walk-ins are welcome. All guests are asked to dress in semi-formal attire to enjoy a "classy night" to be remembered.

"This is an organized event that you wouldn't normally see at Bowling Green," Clark said. "And with the free food and entertainment, how can you beat that?"

Clark also said the event will allow for students to learn and think about Black History Month outside of the box.

"This will be a learning experience that will open your eyes," she said. "And instead of showing you, we're going to tell you."

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PEOPLE ON THE STREET

What would you do to rock Bret Michaels' world?



"Take him to the health clinic."

NATALIE O'BRIEN,
Sophomore,
Theatre



"I would never touch Bret Michaels."

OLIVIA BRITTON,
Freshman,
VCT



"Buy him 'Rock Band' and keep it moving."

LAKETA LAIRD,
Sophomore,
Psychology



"Have an intellectual conversation with him, because that never happens."

CAITLIN WISE,
Senior,
Biology

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Lake Erie fishermen knew danger, should cover some cost of rescue



MARISHA PIETROWSKI
COLUMNIST

A common pastime during the cold winter in the Great Lakes region is to go fishing out on the ice that forms over the lakes. When the proper precautions are taken, and fishermen recognize when it is appropriate to venture on the ice, this can be a rewarding activity. However, it is also a very risky activity that can turn complicated and dangerous fast.

This was the case Saturday, Feb. 7, when 134 fishermen found themselves stranded on a piece of ice on Lake Erie near Oak Harbor. Due to unusually warm temperatures that day, some of the ice began to melt and visible cracks formed. To solve this issue, the fishermen decided to use wooden planks on the ice in order to make their way across the thin ice, in order to travel farther out on the lake.

One person died from a heart attack, and the others were stranded on the ice until numerous rescue crews could reach the fishermen. According to ABC News, the Coast Guard, two sheriff's departments (the rescue occurred right on the Lucas and Ottawa county lines) and eleven fire departments were called to ensure the rescue of those on the ice.

According to Ottawa County Sheriff Bob Bratton, the cost of the rescue is upwards of \$20,000. As of now, the fishermen will not be responsible for paying any of that amount.

It is the duty of these rescue divisions and law enforcement officers to protect those in danger. This is the reason the Coast Guard is giving as to why they are not charging those rescued.

However, in situations such as this, the potentially dangerous situation was avoidable and required an extensive use of resources from numerous departments. It does not seem right that those who took such a risk will be free from financial accountability for their actions.

When someone requires an ambulance, many cities and communities will end up billing the patient or their insurance company for the transportation and services from the ambulance. Even when an uncontrollable, sudden and not preventable medical emergency occurs, someone may be charged for the services required to save their life.

I find it frustrating that in a preventable situation such as this, it is possible that those rescued will not be required to pay for their rescue as a result of insufficient planning or ignoring warning signs of potentially dangerous conditions.

Instead, the community and law offices that are likely already strapped for cash will foot the entire bill. They should require the parties involved to cover some of the cost.

One of the fishermen said the situation was not a dangerous one, and they were in no danger at the time. While this may have been true, they were stranded on floating ice that wasn't getting any more solid in the warm temperatures and winds.

I can't help but wonder if the fact that wooden planks were

needed to get people across the ice was a bit of a warning sign as well. Maybe I'm just a chicken, but I don't believe I would risk my safety on a leisurely fishing expedition that required the assistance of planks to get me to the point where I could fish. To me, this shows there was a danger of the ice breaking, and the fishermen knew what they could be getting into.

The situation could have taken a turn for the worse quickly, and it is the responsibility of the rescue departments to prevent people from harm, and that is what they did.

Fishing out on the ice of Lake Erie or similar bodies of water is not illegal, and I wouldn't say the fishermen should be penalized for doing so in the first place. However, fishing is a recreational activity, and not a necessity in this case.

People should realize their activities can put themselves and others in danger, and should be prepared to take some sort of responsibility in the event of a situation such as this.

These fishermen did not plan on having to be rescued, nor did they plan on the ice breaking. However, they took the risk, and while it wasn't an intentional incident, it was preventable, and it will likely cause a financial burden for the rescue parties involved.

While covering some of the costs may also burden the fishermen, it was their decision to go out on the ice and attempt to fish, not the rescuers.

Respond to Marisha at thenews@bgnews.com

Legitimate

Aaron

Ruth



MICHAEL WEIGMAN | THE BG NEWS

Stimulus package no sign of hope



PHIL SCHURRER
FACULTY COLUMNIST

By the time you read this, the President will likely have signed the long-awaited stimulus package. But before we begin dancing in the streets to the sounds of "Happy Days Are Here Again," perhaps a little sober consideration and reflection should take place on what has occurred.

The Republicans (you remember those evil people who gave us George W. Bush, the Iraq War and economic ruin?) have called it "inter-generational theft," and with good reason. Guess who will be paying the tab for this little bit of governmental largesse? Hint: they are reading this column. Thank you, students. Makes you wonder if all the bad-mouthing about the federal deficits over the past eight years will turn out to be just a bit disingenuous.

When the Stimulus package was being hammered out and the true physical size of the bill became known (1,071 pages, 8 inches thick), there was talk of postponing further action on it for 48 hours until it was posted on the Congressional Web site and Congress had a chance to actually read and understand it.

(News flash: those we send to

Congress aren't that smart. No one could plow through 1,000 pages of turgid legal prose and understand it in 48 days, let alone 48 hours.)

But the Obama Administration wants none of that, and their obedient vassals on Capitol Hill vowed to put it on the "fast track." No need for public hearings or input, let alone Congressional comprehension. We need "change" — consequences be damned.

One of the main selling points for the urgency in passing this legislation is the perception that we're coming near to a reenactment of the Great Depression of the 1930s. But before we swallow this premise hook, line and sinker, perhaps a few inconvenient facts should be recalled.

On March 10, 1933, in a memo from the President's Economic Council to President Roosevelt, the unemployment statistics in the following Ohio locations were noted: Toledo, 80 percent; Akron, 60 percent; and Cleveland, 50 percent.

In contrast, the average annual national unemployment rate for 1982 stood at 9.7 percent. As of January 2009, the nationwide unemployment rate stood at 7.6 percent. By that standard, we're not even close to the Great Depression.

Remember the "trickle down" theory which was part and parcel of supply-side economics? Liberals have had a field

day laughing and ridiculing the concept. They've scorned the notion that society should depend upon rich fat cats to initiate or sustain economic prosperity and rejected the mechanics of the concept itself. Deep down, it probably just didn't seem fair. Everyone — supposedly — should have an equal impact in our economy.

Well, the concept seems to have come full circle. The stimulus package will create a new dispenser of funds that will gallop in and rescue us from the economic train wreck we're allegedly heading for. So instead of depending on bankers, brokers and other alleged bottom-feeders, we will now have a family member pouring the money downhill — our very own Uncle Sam. Rather than having to depend on greed of plutocrats, we will be faced with the inefficiency of bureaucrats.

I personally hope the stimulus bill succeeds, but I have severe reservations. When the hired help in Washington begins to throw this much money at a problem, with apparently very little deliberation or feedback, I begin to reach for my wallet in a protective gesture.

This is not free; someone has to pay for it sooner or later. The big worry: is it overkill?

Respond to Phil at thenews@bgnews.com

Tax churches for anti-gay policy

By Alex Stephens
U-Wire

What's more important than feeding starving children, sheltering the homeless, building hospitals and relieving struggling families? Keeping homosexuals down in California, obviously.

After its passage in November, Proposition 8 banned gay marriage in California. It was a harsh blow to the gay and lesbian community. The passage highlighted the strength of organized interests and their divinely righteous ability to stamp out equality wherever it rears its sinful head.

Campaign contribution efforts to ensure the success of Proposition 8 exceeded \$40 million, indicating that it was of some great importance to many people.

Among the list of top donors were individuals like Alan Ashton from Utah (he invented Word Perfect) and groups like the National Organization for Marriage based in New Jersey.

Isn't America great? The freedom to legally persecute your own countrymen from thousands of miles away just can't be topped. The Proposition was on the California ballot, for Californians to decide, and not be influenced by people who live outside of California. Since when did that become an acceptable practice?

What a cool concept, though — are you uncomfortable with other people's lifestyles? Does it offend your God? Just toss some money around and you too can sleep well at night knowing that only a man and a woman can legally marry

each other in some distant state.

More disturbing is that tax-exempt religious institutions contributed vast quantities of money to get Proposition 8 passed — and they are still considered tax exempt.

Headquartered in New Haven, Conn., The Knights of Columbus is a right-wing political branch of the Catholic Church. They donated about \$1.5 million toward Proposition 8, according to anti-Prop 8 group Californians Against Hate.

Under tax code 501(c)(8), they are considered a "fraternal beneficiary society" because they provide health care to their members. Within the leniency of the code, they may "[engage] in political activity, including intervention in political campaigns ... without jeopardizing [their] exempt status."

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are generally to be fewer than 300 words. These are usually in response to a current issue on the University's campus or the Bowling Green area.

GUEST COLUMNS are generally longer pieces between 400 and 700 words. These are usually also in response to a current issue on the University's campus or the Bowling Green area. Two submissions per month maximum.

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Opinion columns do not necessarily reflect the view of The BG News.

After weeks of debates and retooling, stimulus bill is passed

By David Espo
The Associated Press

WASHINGTON — Savoring his first big victory in Congress, President Barack Obama on Saturday celebrated the newly passed \$787 billion economic stimulus bill as a "major milestone on our road to recovery."

Officials said he would sign the measure today in Denver.

Speaking in his weekly radio and Internet address, Obama said, "I will sign this legislation into law shortly, and we'll begin making the immediate investments necessary to put people back to work doing the work America needs done."

At the same time, he cautioned, "This historic step won't be the end of what we do to turn our economy around, but rather the beginning. The problems that led us into this crisis are deep and widespread, and our response must be equal to the task."

The bill passed Congress on Friday on votes split mostly along party lines, allowing Democratic leaders to deliver on their promise of clearing the legislation by mid-February. The decision to sign it today in Denver, where Democrats held their national convention last summer, was disclosed by officials on condition of anonymity. They said they were not authorized to discuss the plans.

"It will take time, and it will take effort, but working together, we will turn this crisis into opportunity and emerge from our painful present into a brighter future," the president said.

Obama "now has a bill to sign that will create millions of good-paying jobs and help families and businesses stay afloat financially," said Sen. Max Baucus, a Montana Democrat who was a leading architect of the measure.

"It will shore up our schools and roads and bridges, and infuse cash into new sectors like green energy and technology that will sustain our economy for the long term," he added in a statement.

Hours earlier, Senate Republican Leader Mitch McConnell offered a different prediction for a bill he said was loaded with wasteful spending.

"A stimulus bill that was supposed to be timely, targeted and temporary is none of the above," he said in remarks on the Senate floor. "And this means Congress is about to approve a stimulus that's unlikely to have much stimulative effect."

Alaska Sen. Lisa Murkowski, in the GOP radio address Saturday, contended Democrats settled "on a random dollar amount in the neighborhood of \$1 trillion and then set out to fill the bucket."

Obama, who was spending the weekend in Chicago, planned to fly back to Washington yesterday. His schedule for the week ahead includes trips to Denver today to talk about his economic agenda and a visit to Phoenix tomorrow to present a plan to fight foreclosures.

In a struggle lasting several weeks, lawmakers in the two

political parties both emphasized they wanted to pass legislation to revitalize the economy and ease frozen credit markets. But the plan that the administration and its allies eventually came up drew the support of only three Republicans in Congress — moderate Sens. Susan Collins and Olympia Snowe of Maine and Arlen Specter of Pennsylvania.

Their support was critical, though, in helping the bill squeak through the Senate on a vote of 60-38, precisely the number needed for passage. Democratic Sen. Sherrod Brown cast the 60th vote in favor in a nearly deserted Senate, hours after the roll call began. He arrived after a flight aboard a government plane from Ohio, where he was mourning the death of his mother earlier in the week.

The House vote was 246-183.

The legislation, among the costliest ever considered in Congress, provides billions of dollars to aid victims of the recession through unemployment benefits, food stamps, medical care, job retraining and more. Tens of billions are ticketed for the states to offset cuts they might otherwise have to make in aid to schools and local governments, and there is more than \$48 billion for transportation projects such as road and bridge construction, mass transit and high-speed rail.

Democrats said the bill's tax cuts would help 95 percent of all Americans, much of the relief in the form of a break of \$400 for individuals and \$800 for couples. At the insistence of the White House, people who do not earn enough money to owe income taxes are eligible, an attempt to offset the payroll taxes they pay.

In a bow to political reality, lawmakers included \$70 billion to shelter upper middle-class and wealthier taxpayers from an income tax increase that would otherwise hit them, a provision that the nonpartisan Congressional Budget Office said would do relatively little to create jobs.

Also included were funds for two of Obama's initiatives, the expansion of computerized information technology in the health care industry and billions to create green jobs the administration says will begin reducing the country's dependence on foreign oil.

Friday's events capped an early period of accomplishment for the Democrats, who won control of the White House and expanded their majorities in Congress in last fall's elections.

Since taking office on Jan. 20, the president has signed legislation extending government-financed health care to millions of lower-income children who lack it, a bill that President George W. Bush twice vetoed. Obama also has placed his signature on a measure making it easier for workers to sue their employers for alleged job discrimination, effectively overturning a ruling by the Supreme Court's conservative majority.

THE BG NEWS SUDOKU

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President Obama speaks about the ailing economy

By Jennifer Loven
The Associated Press

"... debating [viewpoints] is how we learn from each other's perspectives."

Barack Obama | President

WASHINGTON — With Congress poised to hand him a big victory on the stimulus plan, President Barack Obama hailed the massive bill and the "spirited debate" that accompanied it.

But he also warned Friday that much more work will be needed to transform the ailing economy.

"Passing this plan is a critical step," Obama told a group at the White House. "But as important as it is, it's only the beginning of what we must do to turn our economy around."

Other needed actions, Obama said, include implementing the newly reconfigured \$700 billion financial industry bailout program, announcing an effort to stem home foreclosures, reforming the regulation that governs the nation's financial sector and crafting what he called a "responsible" federal budget. These are all points that he'd made repeatedly in recent days.

Obama also plans to announce a housing program, perhaps as soon as next week. His administration in the coming weeks will be unveiling its proposals for overhauling regulations and presenting its first budget request to Congress.

The \$790 billion economic stimulus plan is on track for a Friday vote in the House, and the Senate is expected to follow

either later in the day or over the weekend, sending the measure to Obama's desk.

Said the president: "We have a once in a generation chance to act boldly, turn adversity into opportunity, and use this crisis as a chance to transform our economy for the 21st century."

Obama asserts that the stimulus package will create or save 3.5 million jobs, while critics contend the bill is filled with wasteful spending and provisions that won't boost the economy.

"We had a spirited debate about this plan over the last few weeks," Obama said. But, he added, "Diverse viewpoints are the lifeblood of a democracy, and debating them is how we learn from each other's perspectives."

In the East Room event, Obama addressed members of The Business Council, a Roosevelt-era entity that brings together the leaders of some of the nation's biggest companies to help advise the president on policy.

"I hope this is the beginning of many conversations," Obama said. "My door is open to you."

LAST BUT NOT LEAST: Sen. Sherrod Brown, D-Ohio, pauses in the elevator after arriving on Capitol Hill from his mother's wake in Ohio to cast the final vote to pass the stimulus bill Friday, Feb. 13, in Washington.

EVAN VUCCI | AP PHOTO

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SIDELINES



SOCCER

Coaching news on both men's and women's teams

At 12:30 p.m. today, Eric Nichols will be announced as the new men's soccer coach. The search has been ongoing for months as Fred Thompson stepped down in December. A full story will appear in tomorrow's edition of The BG News. On the women's side, former Falcon goalie Erika True (above) has been hired as the head coach of Indiana State University.

ONLINE

The BG News Sports Blog

Be sure to log on to The BG News Sports Blog. With the hiring of the new men's soccer coach this afternoon, we will hopefully posting audio of the press conference, but we definitely will be posting our thoughts on the new coach. Additionally, we will have some coverage of Wednesday's Buffalo game. bgviewnetwork.com/sports

OUR CALL

Today in

Sports History

1968—Naismith Memorial Basketball Hall of Fame opens in Springfield, Mass.

1931—The first ever telecast of a sporting event features a Japanese baseball game.

The List

It may be cold outside in BG, but in Goodyear, Arizona, it feels like spring as all Indians players have reported to Spring Training. Here are five storylines coming out of the Indians' Spring Training:

1. Utility battle: There is one utility spot open on the roster and plenty of players to fill it. Manager Eric Wedge has said outfielders and infielders are eligible.

2. Catching: Victor Martinez is said to be in the best shape of his career and will likely win the starting job, but backup Kelly Shoppach had a good season last year in Martinez's absence.

3. Bullpen: The Indians added closer Kerry Wood and sidearm specialist Joe Smith to bolster a bullpen that faltered in 2008.

4. WBC players: Grady Sizemore, Rafael Perez, Mark DeRosa and Shin-Soo Choo will represent their countries in the World Baseball Classic and miss some time.

5. Starting rotation: With Jake Westbrook out until mid-season, there will be a battle to help fill the back of the rotation. Cliff Lee, Fausto Carmona and Carl Pavano are given but after that, it's open season in Arizona.

First year assistant coach Ballard bringing excitement to BG gymnasts

By Chris Sojka
Reporter

Assistant coach Craig Ballard often refers to the women on the gymnastics team as rock stars.

After attending Woodward Camp—which is regarded as the best gymnastics camp in the country—and witnessing many "rock star" gymnasts, Ballard can see the huge amount of talent on his team.

As an assistant coach at the University of Rhode Island from 2007-2008, Ballard led the team to a second-place finish at the conference championships, coached an athlete to a 2008 I.O. National Championship and was named the ECAC assistant coach of the year.

He has been around talent for

years and knows when he sees it.

In his first year as assistant coach at BG, Ballard said his previous experience with gymnastics has helped him out greatly.

"[This experience] gave me the chance to plan, implement and execute my own plans for a team," Ballard said. "All of the knowledge and ideas I was able to accumulate and formulate into my own were actually being carried out with that team."

"Having that kind of experience in every aspect of a program from practice plans, to traveling, to marketing can never be bad."

Head coach Kerrie Beach has huge plans for the gymnastics program and she thinks Ballard's experience and excitement to aide her are exactly what the team needs.



Craig Ballard

Came to BG from the University of Rhode Island

"Craig and I have a terrific relationship and it is just great to bounce ideas off one another," Beach said. "The team always wants to feel like the coaches care just as much as they do. I think the team definitely feeds off of his enthusiasm."

Ballard is enthusiastic about gymnastics because he really loves what he does.

Along with being the assistant coach, Ballard is coordinating the recruiting information, too. With this, he is finding potential

"Craig and I have a terrific relationship and it is just great to bounce ideas off one another. The team always wants to feel like the coaches care just as much as they do. I think the team definitely feeds off of his enthusiasm."

Kerrie Beach | Head coach

student athletes who will make the gymnastics program better.

Ballard is having no trouble fitting in with the recruiting process because projecting gymnasts' college careers is something he really enjoys doing.

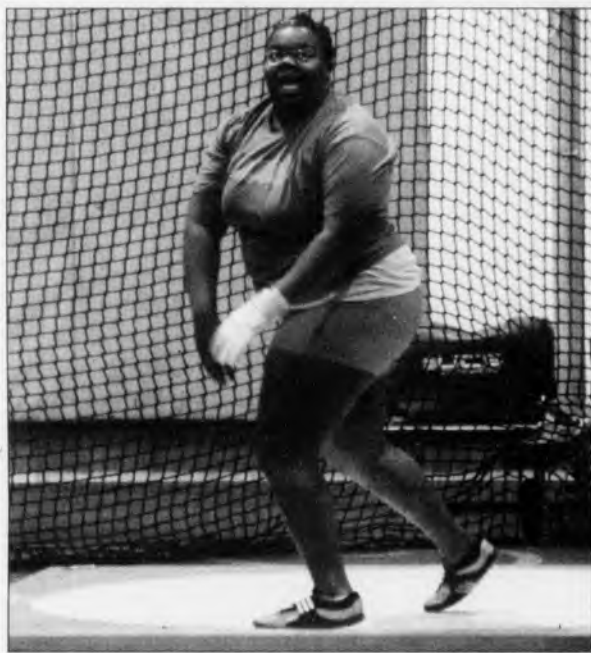
"I love the opportunity to win

and be successful," Ballard said. "There is no better feeling when a team succeeds and accomplishes a common goal ... and I hate failing."

See **BALLARD** | Page 7

All-around at All-Ohio

Falcons turn in balanced effort; place third at All-Ohio Championships



BEN LOHMAN | THE BG NEWS

NEXT STEP: TaKarra Dunning may be headed to nationals to throw.

By Christopher Rambo
Reporter

For their biggest meet of the season to date, the BG track team reserved one of their best overall performances, finishing third out of 12 teams at last weekend's All-Ohio Championships.

The University of Cincinnati and Ohio University were the only two squads to better the 92 points racked up by the Falcons.

"I was very pleased with our overall performance today," said coach Cami Wells. "I really like how our athletes approached this week from both a physical and mental standpoint. I'm really proud of the way they went out and competed and supported one another."

Leading the way for the Falcons point-wise was junior Shantell Lewis who, although not recording a win, collected 13 points through an assortment of solid finishes, which included a runner-up in the 60 meter dash and a fourth-place

"I think this meet shows that I have a fighting spirit to go out and compete for myself and my team."

TaKarra Dunning | Shot-putter



Shantell Lewis

Scored 13 points including second in the 60 meters



Brittani McNeal

Scored 12 points, including fifth place in the 200 meters

finish in the 200.

"Shantell is one of our leaders," Wells said. "She worked very hard to get to where she is now and she certainly showed her leadership this weekend."

Right behind Lewis was sophomore Brittani McNeal whose total of 12 points was highlighted by a fifth place finish in the 200.

A fine weekend was also enjoyed by TaKarra Dunning who, by virtue of a second place

finish in the shot-put, earned herself a provisional spot on the national team, meaning that with quality showings in the next two meets, she has a good chance to make the squad.

"TaKarra has done a terrific job of staying positive and working hard," Wells said of her senior thrower who was sidelined earlier in the year with a hamstring injury.

See **TRACK** | Page 7

Senior Menoff will be counted on once again to help lead Falcon tennis

By Morgan Carlson
Reporter

In 2007, she had the best Mid-American Conference singles record in school history.

In 2008, she was named to the Academic All-MAC team for the second year in a row.

So far in 2009, she has a 5-0 singles record in the spring season, but senior Stefanie Menoff tries not to pay attention to her personal record.

"When I play, I am out there to win for the team," Menoff said. "The team record is much more important to me than my individual record. We need to do well as a team in order to win. One person does not win or lose a match, we do it together."

Coach Penny Dean recalls several of Menoff's matches that stand out in her mind.

"Stefanie has been a huge contributor for three and a half years.



Stefanie Menoff

Has gone 5-0 in singles matches in 2009

Every match we could count on her for a 'W' no matter who we played," Dean said. "I remember at Xavier her freshmen year the score was tied 3-3 and it came down to her match."

"She calmly executed her shots under pressure and proceeded to beat Sara Potts 6-4 in the third, winning the match for BG. That is a lot of pressure."

When it comes to pressure, Menoff says it doesn't usually get to her too much during matches.

"As far as the pressure, I know that I have my teammates there cheering me on and supporting me, and that takes all the nerves and jitters away," Menoff said.

"When I play, I am out there to win for the team."

Stefanie Menoff | Senior

Menoff's match this season against the University of Cincinnati also stands out in Dean's mind as one of the players' best college matches.

"She really hit out in the Cincinnati match against an opponent better than most she sees at the No. 5 spot," Dean said. "Stef ran down more balls than I have ever seen her get and was pumped up in a positive manner. She wasn't playing 'afraid to lose', which is great."

Menoff also feels the match

See **MENOFF** | Page 7

Youngstown community set to embrace Pavlik

YOUNGSTOWN (AP) — Bars are setting up big screens, local singers are competing to sing the national anthem and the mayor is asking downtown businesses to leave their lights on as a way of welcoming out-of-town boxing fans.

Blue-collar Youngstown, which has struggled from decades of job-losses, is preparing to put its best foot forward for Saturday night's sold-out title fight between hometown champ Kelly Pavlik (34-1) and Mexico's Marco Antonio Rubio (43-4-1).

Holding the middleweight bout at the city's Chevrolet Centre is Pavlik's way of show-

ing appreciation to local fans who have loyally — and loudly — followed him to fights in Las Vegas and Atlantic City, N.J.

Those who didn't get a ticket — the fight was sold out within minutes of going on sale Jan. 10 — are expected to watch at bars and restaurants, at car dealerships and in heated tents set up downtown for what's billed as a tailgate-like atmosphere. Live bands will perform before the fight near the arena, which normally hosts minor league hockey games.

"There's a lot of buzz right now with people being downtown again," said Frank Buonavolonta,

manager of a nearby Buffalo Wild Wings. "Everybody is expecting a big night."

Pavlik, 26, trains at the city's Southside Boxing Club, a one-time pizza shop. The World Boxing Council and World Boxing Organization middleweight champion has become a local hero, following Ray "Boom Boom" Mancini, a former World Boxing Association champion, and Harry Arroyo, a former IBF lightweight champion.

The area's last big fight was in 1982 when Mancini defended

See **PAVLIK** | Page 7



BILL KOSTROUN | AP PHOTO



SUE OGROCKI | AP PHOTO

CONSISTENCY: After the poll saw numerous different No. 1s, Hasheem Thabeet and UCONN have been there for three weeks.

MAKING A CASE: Blake Griffin and Oklahoma have been improving all year and could find themselves at No. 1 eventually.

UCONN No. 1 in men's AP poll for third straight week

By Jim O'Connell
The Associated Press

Connecticut's third straight week at No. 1 in The Associated Press' college basketball poll means the Huskies have the second-longest streak of the season.

The Huskies (24-1) were again a runaway choice yesterday, receiving 66 first-place votes from the 72-member national media panel, and the three teams behind them remained the same for a second straight week.

Oklahoma (25-1), which was No. 1 on four ballots, was second, followed by North Carolina (23-2), which got two first-place votes, and Pittsburgh (23-2).

North Carolina was an unanimous No. 1 in the preseason poll and in the first seven of the regular

season. Pittsburgh held the top spot for two weeks and had been tied with Connecticut for the second-longest streak. The two were to meet yesterday night at Hartford, Conn.

Memphis and Michigan State both moved up three places to fifth and sixth, respectively, and were followed by Louisville, Wake Forest, Duke and Marquette.

Wake Forest and Duke were both ranked No. 1 for one week this season.

Washington, which was ranked for two weeks before falling out for one poll, returned this week and was joined by newcomers LSU and Dayton.

See **UCONN** | Page 7

No charges to be filed against Phelps

By Seanna Adcox
The Associated Press

COLUMBIA, S.C. — A South Carolina sheriff said yesterday he was not going to charge swimmer Michael Phelps after a photo of the 14-time gold medalist showed him smoking from a marijuana pipe.

Richland County Sheriff Leon Lott said he couldn't ignore the photo but defended his investigation.

"Michael Phelps is truly an American hero ... but even with his star status, he is still obligated to obey the laws of our state," Lott said.

The photo showed Phelps smoking from a marijuana pipe at a party in November when he visited the University of South Carolina.

Phelps has called his judgment bad and said he would learn from his mistake.

USA Swimming suspended Phelps for three months in the wake of the photo, and Kellogg



MARK J. TERRILL | AP PHOTO

SAVED: A South Carolina sheriff will not charge Phelps after a photo was released showing Phelps smoking from a marijuana pipe at a party in the state.

Co. said it would not renew its endorsement deal with him.

The photo surfaced in a British newspaper, News of the World, on Feb. 1. The swimmer,

who won a record eight gold medals at the Beijing Games, did not dispute its authenticity.

News of the World said the picture was taken during a party while Phelps was visiting the university. During that trip, he attended one of the school's football games and received a big ovation when introduced to the crowd.

The party occurred nearly three months after the Olympics while Phelps was taking a break from training, and his actions should have no impact on the eight golds he won at Beijing. He has never tested positive for banned substances.

This isn't the first embarrassing episode for Phelps after an Olympic triumph. In 2004, a few months removed from winning six gold and two bronze medals in Athens, the swimmer was arrested on a drunken driving charge at age 19. He pleaded guilty and apologized for the mistake.

TRACK

From Page 6

"I think this meet shows that I have a fighting spirit to go out and compete for myself and my team," Dunning said. She is the Falcons' only national qualifier.

BALLARD

From Page 6

Joining the program in October—after the team had been training for over a month—was a difficult task for Ballard.

Beach set up a lot of opportunities so the team could get to know Ballard and so they were able to mesh as quickly as possible.

"The first year when you go somewhere is always the toughest," Ballard said. "Getting the team used to your terminology and methods is always the hardest part."

His terminology and methods did not take too long to

Absent from the victory column for the first time this season was Whitney Hartman who finished second in the weight throw, snapping her winning streak at six. Hartman also placed eighth in the shot put, giving her a total of nine points.

The Falcons will now take

a week to recharge the batteries before competing in the Mid-American Conference Championships on February 27 and 28.

"We will use this week to rest up a bit and prepare ourselves so we are completely ready to go in two weeks," Wells said.

"Craig is doing an excellent job and he has set standards high for the athletes. We have seen great improvement on vault and bars due to that."

Kerrie Beach | Head coach

stick with the team as Beach is seeing a lot of improvement since his arrival.

"Craig is doing an excellent job and he has set standards high for the athletes," Beach said. "We have seen great improvement on vault and bars due to that."

This season, Ballard has seen a lot of bright points; however, he thinks the team

is still learning how to handle success and seal the deal at the meets.

"This team has a lot of potential to have great meets, win the [Mid-American Conference championship] and make NCAA's," Ballard said. "They're going to have to learn what it's like to be rock stars because that's what they are."

Porter ousted as Suns coach in first year

By Bob Baum
The Associated Press

PHOENIX — The Phoenix Suns have fired coach Terry Porter, just four months into his first season with the club and the sputtering team barely in playoff contention. Assistant Alvin Gentry was appointed interim coach.

Phoenix (28-23) lost five of eight going into the All-Star break and trails Utah by one game for the eighth and final playoff spot in the West.

Gentry promised a return to the fast-paced style that best utilizes the team's talent, particularly the skills of playmaker Steve Nash.

"We are who we are and I think we have to go back to trying to establish a breakneck pace like we've had in the past," Gentry said at a news conference announcing his promotion.

The Suns are the eighth team to fire a coach this season, meaning more than one-quarter of the league's coaches are gone at the All-Star break.

This marks the second time Porter has been fired as an NBA coach. He was let go by the Milwaukee Bucks in 2005 after two seasons.

"I hired Terry because I believed in him. He's got a ton of integrity and dignity and class, and he's got a great work ethic," general manager Steve Kerr said. "I hired him because I believed he was the best man for the job."

But Kerr said he probably underestimated the difficulty



NATHAN DENETTE | AP PHOTO

FIRE: Phoenix Suns coach Terry Porter was fired after just four months at the helm.

of the transition from Mike D'Antoni's loose, high-speed style of play.

"I think we still can make this a very successful season," Kerr said. "This was a move I think we had to make in order to give our team the best chance for success."

Porter was in the first year of a three-year deal worth about \$6 million to replace Mike D'Antoni, who left after four highly successful seasons to coach the New York Knicks.

D'Antoni is a coach who lets his players run and shoot, and maybe play defense once in a while. It was Kerr's insistence on emphasizing defense that led, in large part, to D'Antoni's departure. Porter wanted a defense-oriented team in the tough mold of the Detroit Pistons.

It was a bad fit.

Kerr said Gentry "has been an integral part of our successes the previous four years and knows our talent as well as anyone."

Extremely popular with Suns players, Gentry has been a coach in the NBA for 20 years, including interim head coaching stints with Miami and Detroit. He was coach of the Los Angeles Clippers from 2000 to 2003.

"I think Alvin is a great players' coach," Suns forward/center Amare Stoudemire said after Sunday's All-Star game in Phoenix. "He gets along with his players well. Of course, he'll have a great game plan from a basketball standpoint. I think it will be somewhat up-tempo."

Asked if the coaching change was needed, Stoudemire said, "Only time can tell."

UConn women remain No. 1 in latest AP poll

By Doug Feinberg
The Associated Press

Connecticut is running through its opponents this season, especially the ranked ones.

The Huskies remained the unanimous No. 1 choice in The Associated Press' college basketball poll yesterday for a 12th straight week, while Oklahoma received all 45 second-place votes again. It's the second straight week that UConn and Oklahoma have been 1-2 in both the men's and women's rankings.

"UConn is really, really good," Pittsburgh coach Agnus Berenato said after a 95-42 loss on Sunday. "They are awesome. There's a reason they are No. 1 in the country."

The Huskies (25-0) have beaten the four-ranked opponents they've played — Oklahoma, North Carolina, Louisville, and now Pitt — by an average of 34.8 points.

"I think we got a couple of players on our team who live for big games," Connecticut coach Geno Auriemma said. "They want to play in these kinds of games. They look forward to it. They prepare for these kinds of games in practice."

Auburn (25-1) moved up to third — its best ranking in 16 years. The Tigers are first in the Southeastern Conference.

Stanford and Baylor rounded

out the first five.

California fell three spots to sixth after losing to Stanford on Saturday and Duke dropped three places to seventh. The Blue Devils play Tennessee yesterday night.

Louisville, Maryland and North Carolina rounded out the top 10.

Florida State continued its ascent up the poll after beating North Carolina 77-70. The 11th spot is the Seminoles' best ranking ever. They were followed by Texas, Tennessee and Texas A&M.

A week after reaching the top 10 for the first time in eight years, Florida tumbled six spots to 15th after losing to Vanderbilt and LSU.

Kansas State climbed four places to 16th and Xavier moved up four spots to 17th — its best ranking since 2001. Vanderbilt made the biggest leap in the poll, moving up six places to 18th after routing Florida and Georgia.

Pittsburgh remained 19th and Ohio State fell to 20th. Iowa State plummeted five spots to 21st after losing to Oklahoma and Texas.

South Dakota State, Virginia, Notre Dame, and Arizona State rounded out the poll.

The Sun Devils re-entered the Top 25 for the first time since week 6.

DePaul fell out of the poll after losing to Villanova. It's the first time in three weeks that a team dropped out of the Top 25.

PAVLIK

From Page 6

his lightweight title for the first time by beating Ernesto Espana at nearby Warren's Mollenkopf Stadium.

"At the time, we weren't too far removed from the shutdown of the mills," Mancini said, referring to the devastating steel plant closures of the late 1970s. "I knew that my career was kind of giving people a boost."

Pavlik's rise has helped local T-shirt vendors, who have done a brisk business lately selling \$25 shirts with a design that features a ghost wearing boxing gloves, a visual allusion to Pavlik's nickname.

"Every time Kelly has a fight, the week or two before the fight, we get really busy," said Walt Kishton, owner of Shirt Wizard in suburban Boardman.

Event organizers will hold auditions tomorrow for national anthem singers and ring card girls. And the city is looking into projecting a large picture of Pavlik on the side of a city building before the fight, said Lyndsey Hughes, downtown director of events and special projects.

Additionally, downtown businesses have said they'll cooperate with Mayor Jay Williams' request to keep the lights on for the fight, a move the mayor hopes will give Youngstown a "warm and inviting image" for visitors.

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Illinois senator addresses his conflicting testimony

New affidavit contradicts earlier statements Burris made

By Don Babwin
The Associated Press

CHICAGO — Sen. Roland Burris insisted yesterday that a newly released affidavit outlining contacts with ousted Gov. Rod Blagojevich's brother and other advisers was voluntary and not the result of contact from federal agents investigating the former governor.

"It was done because we promised the (impeachment) committee we would supplement information in case we missed anything," Burris said yesterday before embarking on trip to talk with constituents. "End of story."

Burris released an affidavit over the weekend in which he admitted Blagojevich's brother asked him for campaign fundraising help before Blagojevich appointed Burris to the Senate.

The disclosure is at odds with Burris' testimony in January, when the Illinois House impeachment committee specifically asked whether he had ever spoken to Robert Blagojevich or other aides to the now-deposed governor about the Senate seat vacated by President Barack Obama.

The discrepancy could mean Burris perjured himself.

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PAUL BEATY | AP PHOTO

ANSWERING QUESTIONS: Sen. Roland Burris (D-Ill.), speaks during a press conference outside the Fellowship Missionary Baptist Church in Chicago yesterday.

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The affidavit's release prompted state Republican leaders to call for Burris' resignation and a perjury investigation while members of his own party, including Blagojevich successor Gov. Pat Quinn, say they would like a full explanation from Burris.

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and submitted the Feb. 4 affidavit to clarify.

However, transcripts of Burris' impeachment committee testimony show he had opportunities to provide a full response to Illinois legislators. In one instance, when asked directly about speaking to Robert Blagojevich and other associates of the former governor, Burris consulted with his attorney before responding.

Robert Blagojevich's attorney has said that his client believes one of the conversations was recorded by the FBI.

Burris said Sunday that he told Robert Blagojevich he would not raise money because it would look like he was trying to win favor from the governor for his appointment.

"I did not donate one single dollar nor did I raise any money or promise favors of any kind to the governor," he said.

But he said he did ask the governor's brother "what was going on with the selection of a successor" to Obama in the Senate and "he said he had heard my name mentioned in the discussions."



SAM MERLO | AP PHOTO

FIERY RUINS: This image made from video shows the site where Continental Flight 3407 crashed into a home on Thursday night, February 12 in Clarence, N.Y. The commuter trip that crashed near Buffalo was on autopilot until just before it went down in icy weather, indicating that the pilot might have ignored federal safety regulations.

Answers remain elusive as plane crash examined for evidence

By Larry Neumeister and Ramit Plushnick-Masti
The Associated Press

CLARENCE, N.Y. — Yesterday, investigators scrutinized the pilot's actions in the final moments of Flight 3407 and tried to determine whether anything on the airplane broke mid-flight, while families of the victims placed roses at the crash site.

After a seemingly routine flight, the airplane endured a 26-second plunge before smashing into a house in icy weather about six miles from Buffalo Niagara International Airport on Thursday night, killing 49 people on the plane and one on the ground.

Though ice has emerged as a possible factor, the cause has remained elusive in part because there was no distress call from the pilot, no mechanical failure has been identified and the plane was so severely damaged.

Shortly before the crash, the crew notified air traffic controllers that there was significant ice buildup on the windshield and wings even though they had turned on the plane's deicing system 11 minutes after leaving Newark, N.J.

National Transportation Safety Board member Steve Chealander drew attention to the crew's

"... they were so low ... that it would not have mattered if Chuck Yeager and Neil Armstrong were flying the plane; there wouldn't have been a different outcome."

Kirk Koenig | Pilot

actions when he said Sunday that the pilot appeared to ignore recommendations by the NTSB and his employer that the autopilot be turned off in icy conditions. The autopilot remained on until an automatic system warned that a stall could occur, pushed the pilot's yoke forward and shut the autopilot off.

Chealander acknowledged that it was possible that the pilot overreacted by yanking the yoke back, further destabilizing the plane, but he said that was one of an almost unlimited number of possibilities.

Kirk Koenig, president of Expert Aviation Consulting of Indianapolis and a commercial aviation pilot for 25 years, said the airplane may have been in a predicament that would challenge even the most experienced pilots.

For example, if ice were forming on the wings, the pilot would want to put the nose of the plane down and increase power; if the icing were on the tail, the oppo-

site would have been required, pulling the nose up and reducing power.

"Things happened so quickly and they were so low to the ground that it would not have mattered if Chuck Yeager and Neil Armstrong were flying the plane; there wouldn't have been a different outcome," Koenig said.

The plane's deicing system was apparently working, the NTSB has said. That system includes strips of rubber-like material on the wings and tail that expand to break up ice, then contract and expand again to break up new ice.

Aviation safety consultant Eric Doten said it is possible to turn on the system too early. Ice can form over the inflated bladders; when the bladder contracts and inflates again, it cannot inflate far enough to break up the ice, he said.

Also yesterday, relatives of the victims made their first trip to the scene. They left red roses dangling from temporary fencing and in a

Dairies try to make ends meet by selling cows for slaughter

By Tracie Cone
The Associated Press

TURLOCK, Calif. — Hundreds of thousands of America's dairy cows are being turned into hamburgers because milk prices have dropped so low that farmers can no longer afford to feed the animals.

Dairy farmers say they have little choice but to sell part of their herds for slaughter because they face a perfect storm of destructive economic forces. At home, feed prices are rising and cash-strapped consumers are eating out less often. Abroad, the global recession has cut into demand for butter and cheese exported from the U.S.

Prices for milk now are about half what it costs farmers to produce the staple, and consumer prices are falling. Unless the market can be bolstered, industry officials project that more than 1.5 million of the nation's 9.3 million milking cows could be slaughtered this year as dairy operators look to cut costs and generate cash.

"This could destroy our dairy

infrastructure," said Mike Marsh, CEO of the United Western Dairymen trade association.

Three months ago, mature milkers would sell for \$2,500 to another dairy, but with nobody buying, dairymen are selling them on the beef market for only \$1,100 each.

It is not just elderly cows that are going to slaughter, said Jon Dolieslager, owner of the Tulare County Stockyard in the heart of California dairy country.

The 262,500 slaughtered nationally in January is 43,500 more than in January 2008. Since September, federal livestock reports show that dairy cow slaughter is up 30 percent, while beef cow slaughter is down 14 percent.

"If milk was worth something, they'd be keeping them," said Dolieslager.

Some dairymen have become so desperate that they are not even bothering to haul to feedlots the newborns whose births keep milk flowing at higher levels.

Investigators in San Joaquin County are trying to determine

who dumped 30 dead bull calves on country roads to avoid rendering costs or hauling them to auction, where they fetch \$5 each but cost hundreds and hundreds more to bottle feed special formula. The group Farm Sanctuary is offering a \$2,000 reward for the culprit.

"Apparently it was someone trying to save money who just dumped them," said Susie Coston, the group's national shelter director.

As of Feb. 2, the price farmers receive for a gallon of milk has been 80 cents a gallon, less than half the \$1.65 a gallon the California Department of Food and Agriculture estimates it costs to produce.

"I don't ever remember being able to produce milk at that price," said dairyman Ray Souza, who got into the business in 1963.

The new price was the biggest one-month drop in 54 years in California and doomed cow No. 4424, a fat Holstein who instinctively lingers to her place in the milk line but has become an economic liability at Souza's dairy.

Food companies trimming product lines in an attempt to save money

By Emily Fredrix
The Associated Press

MILWAUKEE — If you want to see how the nation's foodmakers are weathering the recession, the proof is in the pudding.

Kraft Foods Inc., the nation's largest food maker, will no longer sell Handi-Snacks pudding to retail customers. At the same time, it's pushing new flavors of its more lucrative Jell-O pudding.

Food companies from Sara Lee Food Corp. to H.J. Heinz Co. are trimming their offerings to focus marketing dollars on their higher-margin, best-selling brands and retain consumers, who are trading down in the recession.

Those top brands are more likely to hold their own, and getting rid of lesser-performing brands helps companies showcase top products as retailers cut inventory. Heinz aims to remove two items for each one it introduces. Sara Lee hopes to cut its offerings 8 percent this

fiscal year.

It's all shaping up to mean fewer choices for consumers.

But will they mind? Probably not, analysts say, noting that if these products had a big following companies would keep them around.

The nation's grocery shelves could stand some trimming, said Mark Gottfredson, head of the global Performance Improvement practice at consulting firm Bain & Company. Much as the housing and technology industries experienced growth bubbles, grocery store shelves have been bursting with products in the past 10 years, he said. They're straining with about 50 percent more products than 10 years ago, including new formulas, flavors and sizes of existing lines, he said.

The trend of cutting SKUs — or stock-keeping units, the unique identity each product carries — has caught on the past three or four years. It accelerated last year, Gottfredson said, as companies homed in on their most profitable brands.

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Burris said Sunday that he told Robert Blagojevich he would not raise money because it would look like he was trying to win favor from the governor for his appointment.

"I did not donate one single dollar nor did I raise any money or promise favors of any kind to the governor," he said.

But he said he did ask the governor's brother "what was going on with the selection of a successor" to Obama in the Senate and "he said he had heard my name mentioned in the discussions."



SAM MERLO

FIERY RUINS: This image made from video shows the site where Continental Flight 3407 crashed in a wooded area on Tuesday night, February 12 in Clarence, N.Y. The commuter train that crashed near Buffalo was headed to New York City. Investigators are working to determine if the crash might have been caused by a fire.

Answers remain elusive as plane crash examined for evidence

By Larry Neumeister and Ramit Plushnick-Masti
The Associated Press

CLARENCE, N.Y. — Yesterday, investigators scrutinized the pilot's actions in the final moments of Flight 3407 and tried to determine whether anything on the airplane broke mid-flight, while families of the victims placed roses at the crash site.

After a seemingly routine flight, the airplane endured a 26-second plunge before smashing into a house in icy weather about six miles from Buffalo Niagara International Airport on Thursday night, killing 49 people on the plane and one on the ground.

Though ice has emerged as a possible factor, the cause has remained elusive in part because there was no distress call from the pilot, no mechanical failure has been identified and the plane was so severely damaged.

Shortly before the crash, the crew notified air traffic controllers that there was significant ice buildup on the windshield and wings even though they had turned on the plane's deicing system 11 minutes after leaving Newark, N.J.

National Transportation Safety Board member Steve Chealander drew attention to the crew's

"... they were so low ... that it would not have mattered if Chuck Yeager and Neil Armstrong were flying the plane; there wouldn't have been a different outcome."

actions when he said Sunday that the pilot appeared to ignore recommendations by the NTSB and his employer that the autopilot be turned off in icy conditions. The autopilot remained on until an automatic system warned that a stall could occur, pushed the pilot's yoke forward and shut the autopilot off.

Chealander acknowledged that it was possible that the pilot overreacted by yanking the yoke back, further destabilizing the plane, but he said that was one of an almost unlimited number of possibilities.

Kirk Koenig, president of Expert Aviation Consulting of Indianapolis and a commercial aviation pilot for 25 years, said the airplane may have been in a predicament that would challenge even the most experienced pilots.

For example, if ice were forming on the wings, the pilot would want to put the nose of the plane down and increase power; if the icing were on the tail, the oppo-

site would have been required, pulling the nose up and reducing power.

"Things happened so quickly and they were so low to the ground that it would not have mattered if Chuck Yeager and Neil Armstrong were flying the plane; there wouldn't have been a different outcome," Koenig said.

The plane's deicing system was apparently working, the NTSB has said. That system includes strips of rubber-like material on the wings and tail that expand to break up ice; then contract and expand again to break up new ice.

Aviation safety consultant Eric Doten said it is possible to turn on the system too early. Ice can form over the inflated bladders; when the bladder contracts and inflates again, it cannot inflate far enough to break up the ice, he said.

Also yesterday, relatives of the victims made their first trip to the scene. They left red roses dangling from temporary fencing and in a

Dairies try to make ends meet by selling cows for slaughter

By Tracie Cone
The Associated Press

TURLOCK, Calif. — Hundreds of thousands of America's dairy cows are being turned into hamburgers because milk prices have dropped so low that farmers can no longer afford to feed the animals.

Dairy farmers say they have little choice but to sell part of their herds for slaughter because they face a perfect storm of destructive economic forces. At home, feed prices are rising and cash-strapped consumers are eating out less often. Abroad, the global recession has cut into demand for butter and cheese exported from the U.S.

Prices for milk now are about half what it costs farmers to produce the staple, and consumer prices are falling. Unless the market can be bolstered, industry officials project that more than 1.5 million of the nation's 9.3 million milking cows could be slaughtered this year as dairy operators look to cut costs and generate cash.

"This could destroy our dairy

infrastructure," said Mike Marsh, CEO of the United Western Dairymen trade association.

Three months ago, mature milkers would sell for \$2,500 to another dairy, but with nobody buying, dairymen are selling them on the beef market for only \$1,100 each.

It is not just elderly cows that are going to slaughter, said Jon Dolieslager, owner of the Tulare County Stockyard in the heart of California dairy country.

The 262,500 slaughtered nationally in January is 43,500 more than in January 2008. Since September, federal livestock reports show that dairy cow slaughter is up 30 percent, while beef cow slaughter is down 14 percent.

"If milk was worth something, they'd be keeping them," said Dolieslager.

Some dairymen have become so desperate that they are not even bothering to haul to feedlots the newborns whose births keep milk flowing at higher levels.

Investigators in San Joaquin County are trying to determine

who dumped 30 dead bull calves on country roads to avoid rendering costs or hauling them to auction, where they fetch \$5 each but cost hundreds and hundreds more to bottle feed special formula. The group Farm Sanctuary is offering a \$2,000 reward for the culprit.

"Apparently it was someone trying to save money who just dumped them," said Susie Coston, the group's national shelter director.

As of Feb. 2, the price farmers receive for a gallon of milk has been 80 cents a gallon, less than half the \$1.65 a gallon the California Department of Food and Agriculture estimates it costs to produce.

"I don't ever remember being able to produce milk at that price," said dairyman Ray Souza, who got into the business in 1963.

The new price was the biggest one-month drop in 54 years in California and doomed cow No. 4424, a fat Holstein who instinctively lingers to her place in the milk line but has become an economic liability at Souza's dairy.



LANCE IVERSON / AP PHOTO

NOT IN DEMAND: Holstein cows owned by Ray Souza were their turn in the milking parlor Saturday Jan. 10 in Turlock, Calif. As of Feb. 2, the price farmers receive for a gallon of milk has been 80 cents a gallon, less than half the \$1.65 a gallon the California Department of Food and Agriculture estimates it costs to produce.

Food companies trimming product lines in an attempt to save money

By Emily Fredrix
The Associated Press

MILWAUKEE — If you want to see how the nation's foodmakers are weathering the recession, the proof is in the pudding.

Kraft Foods Inc., the nation's largest food maker, will no longer sell Handi-Snacks pudding to retail customers. At the same time, it's pushing new flavors of its more lucrative Jell-O pudding.

Food companies from Sara Lee Food Corp. to H.J. Heinz Co. are trimming their offerings to focus marketing dollars on their higher-margin, best-selling brands and retain consumers, who are trading down in the recession.

Those top brands are more likely to hold their own, and getting rid of lesser-performing brands helps companies showcase top products as retailers cut inventory. Heinz aims to remove two items for each one it introduces. Sara Lee hopes to cut its offerings 8 percent this

fiscal year.

It's all shaping up to mean fewer choices for consumers.

But will they mind? Probably not, analysts say, noting that if these products had a big following companies would keep them around.

The nation's grocery shelves could stand some trimming, said Mark Gottfredson, head of the global Performance Improvement practice at consulting firm Bain & Company. Much as the housing and technology industries experienced growth bubbles, grocery store shelves have been bursting with products in the past 10 years, he said. They're straining with about 50 percent more products than 10 years ago, including new formulas, flavors and sizes of existing lines, he said.

The trend of cutting SKUs — or stock-keeping units, the unique identity each product carries — has caught on the past three or four years. It accelerated last year, Gottfredson said, as companies homed in on their most profitable brands.

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Auctioneering, a family business

RUSHVILLE (AP) — John Clum is sold on work.

At 90, he is thought to be Ohio's oldest active auctioneer, although the state doesn't track the ages of its 3,300 licensed practitioners.

"I don't know of anyone older," said Lori Landry, executive director of the Ohio Auctioneers Association, a trade group.

Auctioneering is about the seventh career for Clum, who got his first license in 1978 after stints as a truck driver, an airplane builder, a road worker, a soldier and a few other things.

These days, he works part time out of his son's Rushville auction house, Mike Clum Inc. Retirement is not a word that rolls off the smooth talker's tongue.

"I'm on the lazy side, but you've got to keep moving," he said.

"I keep coming around because you get to meet so many nice people."

Mike Clum Inc., located 40 miles



SHARI LEWIS | AP PHOTO

FAST TALKING: John Clum, 90, takes the microphone at the auctioneer's table while selling tooth pick holders at his son's business, Mike Clum Inc., on Wednesday Feb. 4, in Rushville, Ohio.

southeast of Columbus, hosts monthly auctions in a converted log barn that are frequented by antiques and collectibles dealers from Ohio and neighboring states.

Three generations of Clums and spouses run the business, including Mike and his wife, Kathy; and Mike's sister, Becky Rosier, and her husband, Bob.

Another senior employee is Jane Clum, 87, who married John 65 years ago and remains his biggest fan.

"I think he does a great job," said Jane, whose job is to record who buys what and for how much.

"Well," her husband answered, "I've had a lot of practice."

For someone who talks for a living, Clum is a man of few

See **AUCTION** | Page 11

Personal beliefs halt immunizations, vaccines

CINCINNATI (AP) — An increasing number of Ohio parents are using religious or personal exemptions to delay or refuse immunizations for children amid fears that vaccines contribute to autism.

Ohio Department of Health data shows the number of religious and philosophical exemptions nearly quadrupled in Ohio between 1998 and 2008, though that figure still represents fewer than 1 in 100 children.

All states require children to be immunized for school. All but Mississippi and West Virginia allow religious exemptions, and Ohio and 19 others also permit exemptions for personal reasons.

A 2007 Associated Press analysis of states and federal data found many states were seeing increases in the rate of religious exemptions claimed for kindergartners.

Doctors say they're concerned that more exemptions could lead to outbreaks of preventable illnesses among children who haven't had the measles-mumps-rubella vaccine.

"It doesn't take a lot of unvac-

inated kids to start a little pocket of infection and epidemic," said Dr. Patricia Manning-Courtney, medical director of the Kelly O'Leary Center for Autism Spectrum Disorders at Cincinnati Children's Hospital Medical Center.

Health officials haven't done a good job of explaining vaccine risks, which leaves parents with doubts, she said.

For years, scientists have debunked the theory of a link between children's vaccines and autism.

A special federal court upheld that view Thursday, turning down families in three cases who contended that a combination of the measles-mumps-rubella vaccine plus other shots triggered autism. Special Master Denise Vowell of the U.S. Court of Claims concluded the families, who had hoped to win compensation, were "victims of bad science."

That won't necessarily stop the small but vocal movement of anti-vaccine parents that includes actress Jenny McCarthy, whose son has autism.

Also among the naysayers are

Jim and Jennifer Hansel of suburban Cincinnati, who decided not to get their 7-year-old son vaccinated after their older son developed autism.

The older boy, now 11, began showing signs of autism within a month of his measles-mumps-rubella vaccine when he was one year old, said Jennifer Hansel, who blames the vaccine for the developmental disability.

She says her younger son will be vaccinated before he goes to college, once his immune system is more developed.

"Would I rather have my child get measles than push him into autism? Yeah," she said. "I'm definitely much more worried about autism than measles."

Dr. Bernadine Healy, the former director of the National Institutes of Health, has suggested that vaccines may affect some children more than others, though health officials haven't determined what might make some more susceptible.

"Are vaccines safe? It's like asking me if aspirin is safe," she said. "It's safe most of the time, but in certain people it may not be."

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AUCTION

From Page 10

words. Asked what makes an auctioneer successful, he boils it down: "Have a big mouth."

What about tricks of the trade?
"You just do it, that's all."
Secrets to a long marriage?
"Fight every day."
Strangest thing he ever sold?
"A guillotine in Indiana."

He speaks more freely from behind the microphone at the auctioneer's table. His voice doesn't have the punch it once had, but Clum can still move the merchandise.

"Five is the bid; 10, give me 10,"

he speaks in rapid-fire succession, selling antique toothpick holders to 50 dealers.

"Seven and a half, 15, now 17 and a half? Sold for \$15."

His son gives him grief for being unable to read the number on a winning bidder's card.

"When you turn 100, we'll put up with excuses," Mike says. "But 90, no."

Antiques dealer Mike Dixon of Westerville, a customer for 30 years, said the friendly atmosphere and good-natured ribbing add to the auction house's charm.

"It's a great place and a real family affair," he said.

West Liberty dealer Richard Johnson, 86, called Clum an inspi-

ration.

"He's a little slower than he used to be, but he does pretty good."

John Clum said he wants to work 20 more years. A Republican, he even jokes about running for public office or being appointed to President Obama's cabinet.

"Heck, I've got my taxes paid."

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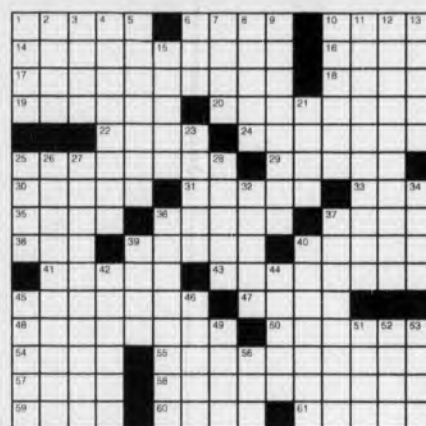
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22 Salty droplet
24 Assaulted abusively
25 Judicial
29 Dashed
30 Views as
31 Entrench oneself
33 Focal point
35 African fox
36 Type of boom
37 Matador's adversary
38 Cool or groovy
39 Discussion group
40 Mountain lions

41 Took a chance
43 Sound units
45 Impedes
47 Fillet fish
48 Named
50 Belgrade's republic
54 Suit toppers
55 Fading away gradually
57 Garr of "Close Encounters of the Third Kind"
58 Form into a network
59 NCAA part
60 Fingers signal
61 Cancun coins

ANSWERS



Famous chimpanzee killed after attacking woman, police

By Stephanie Reitz
The Associated Press

HARTFORD, Conn. — A 200-pound pet chimpanzee once seen in TV commercials mauled a woman visiting its owner yesterday and cornered a police officer in his cruiser before he shot and killed it, authorities said.

Stamford police Capt. Richard Conklin said the injured woman was hospitalized late yesterday in "very serious" condition at Stamford Hospital; her identity was not immediately released. Conklin said she suffered "a tremendous loss of blood" from serious facial injuries.

The 15-year-old chimpanzee's owner and two officers also were hurt, though police said the extent of their injuries was not immediately known.

Police said they had no idea why the chimpanzee, named Travis, attacked the woman as she got out of her car to visit the animal's owner, Sandra Herold. Conklin said Herold wrestled with the animal, then ran inside to call 911.

"She retrieved a large butcher knife and stabbed her long-time pet numerous times in an effort to save her friend, who was really being brutally attacked," Conklin said.

Travis ran away and started roaming on Herold's property as police arrived. Officers set up security so medics could reach the critically injured woman lying on the ground, Conklin said.

As the woman was treated, the chimpanzee went after several of the officers, who retreated into their cars, Conklin said. Travis opened the door to one cruiser and started to get in, trapping an officer who then shot the chimpanzee several times, Conklin said.

The wounded chimpanzee fled. Conklin said police followed the trail of his blood down the driveway, into the open door of the home, through the house and to his living quarters, where he had retreated and died of his wounds.

Well-known around Stamford because he rode around in trucks belonging to his owners' towing company, Travis appeared on TV commercials for Old Navy



KATHLEEN O'ROURKE | AP PHOTO

CHIMPANZEE: In this Oct. 20, 2003 photo, Travis, a 10-year-old chimpanzee, sits in the corner of his playroom at the home of Sandy and Jerome Herold in Stamford, Conn. The 175-pound (80-kilogram) chimpanzee, kept as a pet, was shot and killed by a police officer yesterday, Feb. 16, after it attacked a woman visiting its owners' home, leaving her with serious facial injuries.

and Coca-Cola when he was younger, made an appearance on the "Maury Povich Show" and took part in a television pilot, according to a 2003 story in The Advocate newspaper of Stamford.

"He's been raised almost like a child by this family," Conklin said Monday. "He rides in a car every day, he opens doors, he's a very unique animal in that aspect. We have no indication of what provoked this behavior at all."

A message seeking comment was left yesterday night at Herold's home.

Conklin said the chimp has been ill from Lyme disease, "so maybe from the medications he was out of sorts. We really don't know."

Police have dealt with the animal in the past, including an incident in 2003 when he escaped from his owners' vehicle in downtown Stamford for two hours. Officers used cookies, macadamia treats and ice cream in an attempt to lure him, but subdued him only after he became too tired to resist.

At the time of the 2003 incident, police said the Herolds told them the chimpanzee was toilet trained, dressed himself, took his own bath, ate at the table and drank wine from a stemmed glass. He also brushed his teeth using a Water Pik, logged onto the computer to look at pictures, and watched television using the remote control, police said.

Man with anti-drunk driving equipment crashes while intoxicated

NEW YORK (AP) — Police on Long Island say a convicted drunk driver whose car was equipped with anti-drunk driving technology has crashed a rented vehicle while intoxicated.

Suffolk County police say Marvin Rice Jr. lost control of his rental car and hit a utility pole Sunday morning in Brentwood.

Police say the 27-year-old driver agreed after a previous DWI conviction to have his car

equipped with a device that tests for alcohol in a driver's breath before starting the car.

It was unclear when he rented another car that had no such device.

Police say Rice is being treated for multiple injuries. He is expected to be arraigned on a DWI charge.

A telephone number for Rice could not be found, and it was not immediately known whether he had a lawyer.

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NEWS *from* around the world

DETROIT USA

DETROIT — As the clock ticks, General Motors Corp. and the United Auto Workers say they are making progress toward a concession agreement but may not reach a deal in time for today's government-imposed deadline, according to people briefed on the negotiations.



FERNANDO LLANO | AP PHOTO

CARACAS VENEZUELA

CARACAS — President Hugo Chavez chose his moment impeccably, sliding in a vote ending limits on his re-election just before the global financial crisis is likely to wreak havoc on Venezuela's oil-based economy. But the pending downturn means Chavez is far from assured a victory in the next presidential vote.

CAIRO EGYPT

CAIRO — He has stoked unrest between African nations but now heads the African Union. He has encouraged Arabs to fight Israel, but also says the world's Jews deserve a state shared with the Palestinians called "Isratine." Libyan leader Moammar Gadhafi is always controversial. But now, as oil-rich Libya throws open its doors after decades as a pariah state, some analysts believe Gadhafi is trying to hone his image in the West.

LONDON ENGLAND

LONDON — Nuclear submarines from Britain and France collided deep in the Atlantic Ocean this month, authorities say in the first acknowledgment of a highly unusual accident that one expert called the gravest in nearly two decades.



CHRIS BACON | AP PHOTO



KATSUMI KASAHARA | AP PHOTO

TOKYO JAPAN

TOKYO — In corporate Japan, losing your job can mean losing your home. As major companies cut their work forces, many Japanese workers have to move out of company-run dormitories. The government has found 2,700 laid-off workers who have turned homeless, and private estimates go as high as 30,000 by the end of the month.

NAIROBI KENYA

NAIROBI, Kenya — The Obama administration wants a legally binding international treaty to reduce environmental mercury, with a senior U.S. diplomat calling it "the most important global chemical issue facing us today." Children and fetuses are particularly vulnerable to the effects of the toxic metal increasingly found in seafood.

CHURCHILL AUSTRALIA

CHURCHILL — The only person accused of lighting one of Australia's deadly wildfires emerges as a lonely Web-surfer who liked dogs and was trying to find love online. A magistrate lifts a ban on publishing his name, so police are forced to keep him in protective custody to protect him from potential reprisal attacks.

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